

<p align="center"><b>Notice of Allowability</b></p>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/612,231	FITZPATRICK, KEITH	
	<b>Examiner</b> Eric Hug	<b>Art Unit</b> 1731	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed November 27, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 15-30 and 32-39, renumbered 1-37.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ronald Santucci on February 12, 2007.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an industrial fabric comprising the steps of:

providing a laminated substrate or base structure formed by forming separately a number of layers;

joining the layers together by warp knitted or stitch bonded binder yarns, wherein at least one of the layers is a reinforcing layer and at least one of the layers is a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings to be applied to one or both sides of the substrate or base structure; and

using the substrate or base structure as the support structure of ~~a long nip press or other papermaking belt~~ the industrial fabric.

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19. (Currently Amended) An industrial fabric comprising a laminated substrate or base structure, said laminated substrate or base structure comprising: a number of separately formed layers; said layers joined together by warp knitted or stitch bonded yarns; wherein at least one of the layers is a reinforcing layer and at least one of the layers is a layer for inhibiting flow-through of coatings to be applied to one or both sides of the substrate or base structure, wherein the substrate or base structure is ~~used as the support structure of a long nip press or other papermaking belt~~ the industrial fabric.

38. (New) The method of claim 1, including the step of using the substrate or base structure as the support structure of a long nip press or other papermaking belt.

39. (New) The fabric of claim 19, wherein the substrate or base structure is the support structure of a long nip press or other papermaking belt.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-13, 15-30, and 32-39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-13, 15-30, 32-35, and 38-39 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest an industrial fabric comprising a laminated substrate or base structure which comprises layers joined together by warp knitted or stitch bonded yarns, wherein at least one layer is a reinforcing layer, at least one layer inhibits flow-through of coatings to be applied thereto, and wherein the laminated or base structure used as a support structure for the fabric.

Claim 36 is allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest an industrial fabric comprising a laminated substrate or base structure which comprises layers joined together by warp knitted or stitch bonded yarns, wherein at least one layer is a reinforcing layer, at least one layer inhibits flow-through of coatings applied thereto, and wherein the coated substrate or base structure has grooves or blind drilled holes.

Claims 37 is allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest an industrial fabric comprising a laminated or base structure which comprises layers joined together by warp knitted or stitch bonded yarns, wherein at least one layer is a reinforcing layer, at least one layer inhibits flow-through of coatings to be applied to surface thereof, and wherein the surface has grooves or blind drilled holes.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed November 27, 2006 have been fully considered.


In view of the arguments and amendments to the claims, Applicant has overcome the rejection set forth previously under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Davenport (US 6,718,896). Applicant has also overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and the claim objections set forth previously.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Eric Hug